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NEW DOSAAF HEAD IDENTIFIED; DOSAAF ELECTIONS SCHEDULED

Gritchkin New Chairman of Dosaaf

In an interview published in Pravda on 26 July 1953, Lieutenant General N. F. Gritchkin was identified as Chairman of the USSR Dosaaf Organizational Committee. Gritchkin replaces Colonel General V. I. Kuznetsov, who has been Dosaaf's top official since the organization's formation in the fall of 1951 and who also headed the paramilitary society, Dosarm, from May 1948 to August 1951.

Kuznetsov was last identified as Chairman of the USSR Dosaaf Organizational Committee in an interview on the society's summer plans which appeared in Krasnaya Zvezda on 14 June 1953. The Pravda article was the only indication received in FDD of his replacement. No information is available in FDD on Gritchkin's former duties.

Reports-Election Meetings Scheduled

A Tass report published in Izvestiya and other central papers on 9 October 1953 states that the USSR Dosaaf Organizational Committee has announced that reports-election meetings will be held in Dosaaf primary organizations before 20 November, and that rayon, city, okrug, oblast, kray, and republic conferences will be held before 20 December 1953.

This is the first announcement of Dosaaf elections, although the society has been in existence for over 2 years. The elections will presumably mark the end of Dosaaf's organizational period. The removal of Colonel General V. I. Kuznetsov as the society's top official may be connected with the termination of this period.

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